agreement for removing QRS" appearing in the Hindustan Times, dated 19th January, 2000; and

(b) what follow-up action has been taken after 1996 and 1997 negotiations with a nunmber of countries on quantitative restrictions on imports into India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) India had entered into bilateral agreements with Austrialia, New Zealand, European Union, Switzerland and with Japan (as a third party) in November, 1997 for phasing out its remaining quantitative restrictions (QRs) on imports, which had been maintained for balance of payments (BoP) purposes over a six-year period from 1-4-1997 to 31-3-2003. However, in spite of the best efforts made by India, the United States of America was not agreeable to a similar six-year phase-out period during consultations with India in 1996-97. Further, the US insisted on a number of other onerous conditions being simultaneously fulfilled by India, which were not acceptable to us.

Consequently, US filed a dispute against India in the WTO. The Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) upheld that India's QRs on imports were not justified on Balance of Payments grounds. Subsequently India and the USA reached an agreement in December, 1999 on a reasonable period of time for implementing the rulings and recommendations of the DSB under which all quantitative restrictions will be lifted by 1-4-2001.

Statutory Boards under Department of Commerce

2449. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the statutory boards and other bodies under the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce;

(b) the details of any commodity Boards with the Department of Commerce;

(c) the headquarters of such Boards;

(d) what is the criteria used to determine where the headquarters of any Board should be located; and

(e) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The statutory boards and other bodies under the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce and their headquarters are as under :—

1.	Tea Board	Calcutta
2.	Coffee Board	Bangalore
3.	Rubber Board	Kottayam
4.	Spices Board	Cochin
5.	Tobacco Board	Guntur
6.	Marine Products Export Development Authority	Cochin
7.	Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Development Authority	New Delhi
8.	Export Inspection Council	New Delhi

(d) and (e) The headquarters of a statutory board/body is determined generally keeping in view various factors such as major production base, trading centre etc. of the respective commodity/commodities.

Protection to Tea Industry

2450. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how Government have plan to save the tea industry when heavy imports of tea is being made despite enough production in the Country;

(b) what is the exact quantity of import of tea during the last three years;

(c) the details country-wise;

(d) what is the quantity of tea exported during the last 3 years;

(e) the details thereof, country-wise;

(f) what is the production of tea during the last 3 years; and

(g) the details thereof State-wise ?